

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-57 are pending in the application. Claim 4, 23 and 26-27 are amended. Claims 6-7, 10-13, and 21-22 were previously withdrawn. Claims 2, 17, 24-25, 41-42 and 51-57 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for favorable consideration and allowance of Claims 1, 3, 5, 8-9, 14-16, 18-20, 23, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32-40 and 43-50.

Claims 25-28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 23 is the independent form prior Claim 25. The remaining dependencies have been adjusted to depend on Claim 23.

In view of the amendments and reasons provided above, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims.

Thus, all claims pending in this case are those considered allowed or allowable by the examiner in the last action.

The applicant does not waive the right to pursue the remaining or other claims by continuation, but wishes to achieve early allowance of these claims.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Michael B. Lasky at (952) 253-4106.

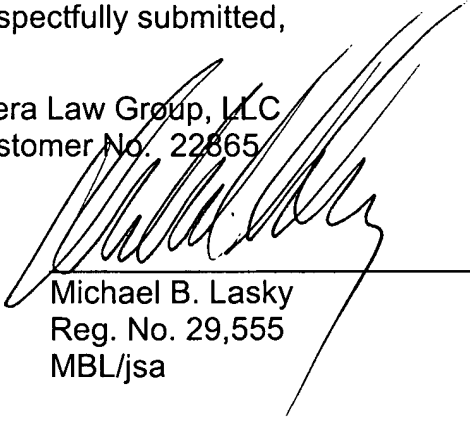
Respectfully submitted,

Altera Law Group, LLC  
Customer No. 22865

Date:

19 January 2005

By:

  
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MBL/jsa